

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5           1.     A method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network, said method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) detecting a collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network;
  - (b) determining a restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is substantially equal to or less than a restricted time value; and
  - (c) causing said peripheral component to wait said restricted back off time before trying to retransmit said data packet over said network.

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15           2.     The method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network as described in Claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises:

detecting said collision of said data packet during transmission of said data packet by said peripheral component coupled to said network, wherein said peripheral component comprises a Network Interface Card (NIC).

20           3.     The method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network as described in Claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises:

detecting said collision of said data packet during transmission of said data packet by said peripheral component coupled to said network, wherein said peripheral component comprises a half duplex Network Interface Card (NIC).

5           4.     The method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network as described in Claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises:

detecting said collision of said data packet during transmission of said data packet by said peripheral component coupled to said network, wherein said network comprises an Ethernet network.

10           5.     The method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network as described in Claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises:

15           detecting said collision of said data packet during transmission of said data packet by said peripheral component coupled to said network, wherein said network comprises a half duplex Ethernet network.

20           6.     The method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network as described in Claim 1, wherein said step (b) comprises:

determining said restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is based on a number generated by a random number generator function.

7.     The method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network as described in Claim 1, wherein said step (b) comprises:

determining said restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is associated with an Ethernet network.

8. A computer system comprising:

a processor;

an addressable data bus coupled to said processor;

a computer usable memory coupled to communicate with said processor for performing a method for providing priority to a peripheral component coupled to a network, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by said peripheral component;

(b) determining a restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is substantially equal to or less than a restricted time value; and

(c) causing said peripheral component to wait said restricted back off time before trying to retransmit said data packet over said network.

9. The computer system as described in Claim 8 wherein said peripheral component comprises a Network Interface Card (NIC).

10. The computer system as described in Claim 8 wherein said peripheral component comprises a half duplex Network Interface Card (NIC).

11. The computer system as described in Claim 8 wherein said network comprises an Ethernet network.

12. The computer system as described in Claim 8 wherein said network  
5 comprises a half duplex Ethernet network.

13. The computer system as described in Claim 8 wherein said step (b) comprises:

determining said restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is  
10 based on a number generated by a random number generator function.

14. The computer system as described in Claim 8 wherein said step (b) comprises:

determining said restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is  
15 associated with an Ethernet network.

15. A computer readable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing a peripheral component to perform the steps of:

(a) detecting a collision of a data packet during transmission of said data  
20 packet by said peripheral component coupled to a network;

(b) determining a restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is substantially equal to or less than a restricted time value; and

(c) causing said peripheral component to wait said restricted back off time before trying to retransmit said data packet over said network.

16. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 15, wherein said  
5 step (a) comprises:

detecting said collision of said data packet during transmission of said data packet by said peripheral component coupled to said network, wherein said peripheral component comprises a Network Interface Card (NIC).

10 17. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 15, wherein said step (a) comprises:

detecting said collision of said data packet during transmission of said data packet by said peripheral component coupled to said network, wherein said peripheral component comprises a half duplex Network Interface Card (NIC).

15 18. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 15, wherein said step (a) comprises:

20 detecting said collision of said data packet during transmission of said data packet by said peripheral component coupled to said network, wherein said network comprises an Ethernet network.

19. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 15, wherein said step (a) comprises:

detecting said collision of said data packet during transmission of said data packet by said peripheral component coupled to said network, wherein said network comprises a half duplex Ethernet network.

5           20.    The computer readable medium as described in Claim 15, wherein said step (b) comprises:

          determining said restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is based on a number generated by a random number generator function.

10           21.    The computer readable medium as described in Claim 15, wherein said step (b) comprises:

          determining said restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is associated with an Ethernet network.